United Nations A/C.2/57/SR.36

General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session

Official Records

Distr.: General
3 December 2002

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 36th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 15 November 2002, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Suazo ..... (Honduras)

Contents

Agenda item 84: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*)

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*)

(c) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (*continued*)

Agenda item 86: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (*continued*)

Organization of work

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

02-69691 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 84: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.37

1. **Ms. Black** (Venezuela), introducing the draft resolution entitled "International trade and development", said that international trade was crucial as a launching pad for development. She hoped that all delegations would support the draft.

Agenda item 87: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*)

(c) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (*continued*) (A/57/359)

2. **Mr. Vienravi** (Thailand) said that the World Summit on Sustainable Development had acknowledged that climate change was a global concern affecting all countries, especially developing countries, and that the problems of poverty, land degradation, access to water and food and human health remained primary concerns. In that regard, he welcomed the decisions taken at the seventh and eighth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to establish the special climate change fund, the least developed countries fund and the adaptation fund, all of which would greatly assist the developing countries in implementing the Convention and the Protocol. He also welcomed the enhanced cooperation between UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Climate change had been responsible for many natural disasters in Thailand and elsewhere in recent years and was inextricably linked to problems such as poverty, desertification and loss of biological diversity.

3. Developing countries such as his own were among the worst affected and Thailand was therefore committed to the goal of climate protection, which it had incorporated into its national sustainable development strategy and its education system. Thailand was a party to most multilateral environmental agreements and had recently ratified the Kyoto Protocol. It looked forward to its early implementation and urged those countries which had not yet done so to ratify it.

4. The Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which confirmed that the average surface temperature of the world would continue to rise during the twenty-first century if nothing were done to prevent it, served as a timely reminder of the need for all concerned to work together to combat climate change for the common good of mankind.

5. **Ms. Yang** Jian Min (China) said that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol offered the political foundation and the legal framework for the international community to address climate change. Further action was needed to comply with the Convention and secure the early entry into force and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. In that regard, the commitment of the developing countries had been further demonstrated by the recent ratification of the Protocol by China, India, Brazil and others. She also welcomed the ratification of the Protocol by the European Union countries and Japan and hoped that those developed countries which had not yet done so would ratify the Protocol as soon as possible.

6. Climate change should be considered from the perspective of sustainable development and strict compliance with the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities". Further scientific research was needed into the impact of climate change on developing countries and their adaptation capacity, while effective financial assistance and technology transfer were essential for enhancing those countries' ability to tackle the problem. To that end, the guidelines for the utilization of the special climate change fund should be adopted as soon as possible so that the Global Environment Facility could provide resources for appropriate activities in developing countries.

7. Like many developing countries, China had made great efforts to respond to climate change. In the past ten years, for example, its energy consumption had increased at only half the speed of its economic growth. Both developed and developing countries should abide by the principles and spirit of the

Convention and fulfil their commitments under it, establishing genuine partnerships for cooperation. At the same time, developed countries should meet their commitments to provide financial resources, technology and capacity-building for the developing countries in the interests of global climate protection.

8. **Mr. Ramsden** (New Zealand) said that climate change was a global issue requiring a global response. New Zealand would play a full role in meeting that challenge at all levels, with particular reference to the Pacific region. The Kyoto Protocol was the best available basis for international action and New Zealand would be ratifying it shortly. The prospects for the Protocol's early entry into force were encouraging, following the announcements by the Russian Federation and Canada of their intention to ratify it, and he urged all countries to follow that example. However, implementation of the Kyoto Protocol was only a first step and the ultimate objective was the stabilization of greenhouse gases at a level that would prevent interference with the climate system. Achieving that goal was also in the interest of New Zealand's Pacific island neighbours and other small island developing States, which had done nothing to create the problem but would suffer disproportionately from its consequences.

9. Developed countries must take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by meeting the 2008-2013 targets under the Kyoto Protocol and helping developing countries reduce their own emissions and adapt to climate change. To achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention, however, broad and balanced participation and action were needed beyond 2012.

10. **Mr. Isakov** (Russian Federation) said the problem of reducing the negative anthropogenic impact on the world's climate system was among the highest priorities on the international agenda. The Russian Federation was doing its utmost to encourage effective cooperation in that field. The recent Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention had made a tangible contribution to promoting such cooperation, and to launching the mechanisms for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. The agreements reached on the modalities of the clean development mechanism and on the Guidelines for reporting under the Kyoto Protocol, and the recommendations for the establishment of the special climate change fund and the least developed countries fund, would place the climate process on the right road. The Russian Federation was preparing to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, and was also preparing to host the World Climate Conference in Moscow in 2003. The Conference would take place within the overall framework of the Kyoto process, and would discuss the multifaceted problems relating to climate change. By encouraging further scientific research and disseminating information, technology and know-how, the Conference would help to strengthen international interaction in the field of climate. It would also promote further cooperation on climate, given that implementation of the Kyoto Protocol was about to begin. His delegation had prepared a draft resolution to encourage active participation in the World Conference, and was counting on all Member States to support it.

11. **Mr. Demar** (Indonesia) said that collective efforts to significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions were vital if the ultimate objective of the Framework Convention was to be achieved. The poorest and most vulnerable developing countries suffered most from climate change, in the form of drought, floods, rising sea levels, desertification, health hazards and contamination of drinking water.

12. The adoption of the Marrakesh Accords, together with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, should greatly help the Kyoto Protocol to fulfil its major task of securing a 5 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries over the next decade. The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention had marked a switch in focus from agreement to implementation. However, progress towards implementation was still hampered by concerns such as financial resources and technological support for developing countries. In that regard, the Global Environment Facility should greatly help to support implementation of the Convention, adaptation projects and programmes, and the monitoring of diseases and vectors affected by climate change. He welcomed the fact that the clean development mechanism had become operational and the establishment of the various funding mechanisms under the Framework Convention.

13. The Delhi Declaration had called for further development and dissemination of and investment in innovative technologies, as well as improved technology transfer, an area where concrete steps had

been taken under the Framework Convention. The developing countries needed to integrate climate change concerns into their sustainable development strategies by focusing on new and renewable energy sources, rural electrification to replace traditional fuels, energy efficiency, cleaner use of fossil fuels and technological innovation. In order to reach its national objective of reducing emissions for the period 1998-2003, Indonesia had embarked on a strategy to increase energy efficiency and slow down and stabilize emissions, a strategy it would continue to pursue for the period 2003-2020, with particular emphasis on land transportation. Government agencies, industries and other stakeholders would be mobilized through general awareness programmes and steps taken to introduce cleaner fuels for public transport.

14. **Mr. Gupta** (India) said that India had been privileged to host the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002. The Ministerial Declaration adopted at that Conference emphasized that all parties to the Convention had a right to, and should promote, sustainable development. Policies to protect the climate system against human-induced changes should be appropriate for the specific conditions of each Party and should be integrated with national development programmes, taking into account that economic development was essential for adopting measures to address climate change. All Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, should continue to advance the implementation of their commitments under the Convention. International cooperation should be promoted in developing and disseminating innovative technologies, and Annex I countries should take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and should provide Annex II countries with financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building.

15. Since the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Marrakesh in 2001, had completed work on the clean development mechanism, joint implementation and emissions trading, the eighth session had focused on adaptation to the adverse effects of climate, including the need to integrate adaptation concerns into sustainable development strategies. International cooperation was central to any effort to address global environmental problems; his Government had recently ratified the Kyoto Protocol and called on other nations to do so.

16. Although India's economy had grown rapidly during the past 20 years, much of that growth had been in the service sectors. The energy intensity of its gross domestic product (GDP) had been declining steadily and, like other developing countries, its contribution to greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere was very low and would remain so for several decades. The imposition of measures to mitigate climate change would place additional strain on the fragile economies of such countries and would adversely affect their efforts to promote economic growth and eradicate poverty. For those reasons, recent proposals to expand developing countries' efforts to mitigate climate change beyond their commitments under the Convention were totally misplaced.

17. **Mr. Salazar** (Peru) said his delegation shared the concerns expressed by the representatives of Venezuela and China. It was increasingly difficult to explain the frequency of extreme weather patterns in almost all parts of the world simply in terms of climatic variation. Heavy rain and flooding, landslides, drought and desertification, rising sea levels, the loss of natural habitats and biodiversity and the shrinking of glaciers and ice cover on mountain summits, were among the adverse effects of climate change considered by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Empirical evidence of the link between distorted weather patterns and the increase in natural disasters had emerged in the period 1985-1999, when 55 per cent of natural disasters had been shown to be due to hydro-meteorological causes. Their devastating impact on the most vulnerable developing countries was in turn linked to unsustainable models of production in the developed countries, based on the use of fossil fuels. Peru was among the Latin American countries on the Pacific rim which had been seriously affected in recent years by the El Niño phenomenon. Through its impact on the glaciers and the resulting distortion in the water cycle, climate change was likely to cost many human lives and to destroy the country's economic infrastructure. In 1997-1998, El Niño had affected around 110 million people and caused direct economic losses in excess of $34,000 in the Latin American countries on the Pacific rim. Paragraph 13 of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development included, at the initiative of the delegation of Peru to the World Summit, an express recognition of the link between climate change and

natural disasters. His delegation was strongly in favour of the rapid entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, which would have a direct impact on the emissions that caused climate change.

18. **Mr. Sopoaga** (Tuvalu) said large parts of the islands making up his country were being eroded as a result of rising sea levels, wave surges and severe weather. Food crops were affected by increased salinity, and freshwater was becoming increasingly scarce. Other island nations were also suffering from the impact of climate change. The findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in its Third Assessment Report, were alarming and underscored the need for action by the global community. For Tuvalu, as for many small island developing States, addressing climate change was fundamental to sustainable development. However, the vision of sustainable development was itself at risk from the actions of others and their lack of responsibility. His delegation strongly supported the statement made by the representative of Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States. Although it welcomed the outcome of the recent Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention, Tuvalu was concerned at the lack of urgency shown by some Parties, especially the industrialized countries, in addressing climate change. Economic growth was undoubtedly important, but should be pursued hand in hand with the sustainable protection of the global environment. Adaptation was essential in order to cope with the effects of climate change, but the burden of adaptation should not be borne wholly by countries which had contributed little or nothing to the causes of climate change. The industrialized countries must shoulder their responsibility to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions as a matter of urgency, as well as providing access to financial and technical resources for development in small island developing States. There was also an urgent need to develop the use of renewable energy, as advocated in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

19. His delegation was concerned that the Delhi Declaration made only a token mention of the Kyoto Protocol, which was the only existing multilateral instrument for combating climate change. That implied that the international community was not treating climate change with the seriousness it deserved. He welcomed the commitment shown by some Parties to the Convention which had ratified the Protocol, and appealed to the industrialized Parties to ratify and implement it as a matter of urgency. The issue of climate change warranted the continuing attention of the General Assembly. He strongly agreed with the view already expressed that the United Nations and others should continue to pay the conference-servicing costs involved in implementing the Framework Convention.

Agenda item 86: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (*continued*) (A/57/188 and A/C.2/57/7)

20. **Ms. Chenoweth** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), introducing the interim report on the International Year of Mountains, 2002 (A/57/188), said that there was general recognition that mountain ecosystems were fragile, that mountain communities suffered disproportionate levels of poverty, and that mountains and the people living on them needed the world's attention. In addition, many now knew that mountains were crucial to life on earth, because half of humanity depended on them for fresh water; that the genetic diversity preserved in mountain ecosystems helped to ensure the world's future food security; and that the future of mountains was under threat from armed conflict, climate change, exploitative mining and unsustainable forestry and agricultural practices. As the lead agency for the International Year, FAO had worked with Governments and other United Nations organizations to bring mountain issues to public attention. Seventy-seven national committees had been working to create policies and programmes to improve the lives of mountain people, and their role would be increasingly important in future. The International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, launched at the Johannesburg Summit, had been given further support at the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, the culminating event of the International Year. At the Mountain Summit, FAO had confirmed its commitment to hosting a secretariat for the Partnership, as well as to helping countries to develop and implement national strategies for the sustainable development of their mountain regions. A disproportionate share of the world's 800 million chronically undernourished people lived on mountains. According to a recent FAO study, half the mountain population in developing and transition countries, comprising between 250 and 370 million people, were vulnerable to food insecurity. By creating the conditions for sustainable development of mountain

regions, much could be done to ensure future food security. The International Year should be a catalyst for long-term action.

21. **Mr. Baialinov** (Kyrgyzstan) said the Mountain Summit held in Bishkek had culminated in the adoption of the Bishkek Mountain Platform, which aimed to develop existing initiatives. It determined the direction for sustainable development in the world's mountain regions, and provided an opportunity for joint action at all levels to improve living conditions in mountain regions, protect mountain ecosystems and promote the rational use of mountain resources. It was based on the experience reflected in chapter 13 of Agenda 21 entitled "Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development". In advance of the Summit, a number of meetings had been held on the subject of sustainable mountain development, and decisions and declarations emanating from those meetings had contributed to the Mountain Platform. Other contributions had been made by international experts, with follow-up consultations through the Internet. Account had also been taken of the recommendations in paragraph 40 of the Johannesburg Plan of Action. His delegation endorsed the programme of the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, and welcomed the offer by FAO to provide a secretariat for the Partnership and support for the Inter-Agency Group on Mountains. He urged the United Nations Environment Programme to secure environmentally sound management in mountain regions, especially in developing countries, by strengthening environment networks and expertise, fostering regional agreements and establishing a partnership between the private and public sectors. His delegation looked for a continued and enhanced role in that regard for UNDP, UNESCO, the United Nations University and other United Nations organizations, as well as the multilateral development banks and other international organizations and States. There must be a separate approach to transboundary mountain territories, to take account of their specific environmental, social, political, cultural and economic features, as well as their potential for development. He hoped the documents adopted at the Summit would help to provide a basis for the formulation and implementation of a new policy for mountain regions.

22. **Mr. Staehelin** (Switzerland) said that, throughout its 700-year history, his country had had to address the ecological, economic, social and political dimensions of sustainability through four main issues: interaction between the highlands and the lowlands, access to and use of natural resources, self-determination in the use of resources and sharing of benefits. Thus, it was not surprising that much of its development cooperation focused on mountainous and, in particular, landlocked countries. Switzerland had also supported regional initiatives such as the creation of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

23. Much had been achieved during the International Year of Mountains: awareness of mountain regions' specificities had been greatly increased; mountain communities' and regions' concerns had received worldwide support at all levels; advocacy had been pursued; partnerships had been formed; new projects and programmes had been launched; concrete action had been taken; and horizontal and vertical exchanges, networking and institutional capacity-building that would have a long-term impact on sustainable development had been established.

24. The most important result of the Year was the creation of platforms at all levels which made it possible for concerned constituencies to meet with members of the political and business communities in order to design and implement activities to improve the livelihoods of mountain people and the conditions for sustainable mountain development. The International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, initiated at the World Mountain Symposium in Interlaken, brought together 29 countries, 16 intergovernmental organizations and 13 international institutions which are guided by clearly agreed goals and supported by better linkages between institutions and improved monitoring systems. It was conceived as an umbrella alliance under which all partners could enter into specific thematic subpartnerships according to their interests and areas of competence.

25. The Governments of Italy and Switzerland would finance continuation of the services provided by the International Year of Mountains Coordination Unit for the first half of 2003 until a permanent structure could be established. Switzerland would also sponsor a workshop to foster implementation of the Partnership. The International Year of Freshwater, 2003, should create opportunities and related initiatives that would further strengthen the commitment to sustainable mountain development.

26. Lastly, he thanked FAO; the United Nations Environment Fund (UNEP); national stakeholders, including the Swiss National Committee for the International Year of Mountains; and the Mountain Forum; the Internet-based network which had connected all of them since 1996 (www.mtnforum.org), for making the Year a resonant success.

27. **Mr. Stagno** (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the Central American Integration System (SICA), said that paragraph 42 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.199/20) recognized the importance of mountain ecosystems. The International Year of Mountains had demonstrated their fragility; their importance as a source of drinking water, biological diversity, flora and fauna; and the recreation opportunities which they offered; it had also led to increased recognition that most of the world's poorest populations lived in mountainous regions and that the sustainable development of those regions was directly related to poverty eradication. It was essential to coordinate follow-up to that Year with the International Year of Freshwater, 2003.

28. The past year had provided an opportunity for SICA countries to increase public awareness of the value of mountain ecosystems, build national and subregional capacities to develop and implement strategies for the sustainable development of mountains and consider the establishment of information networks. They had undertaken to make better use of the resources of mountainous regions, promote the sustainability of mountain agricultural systems and develop a solid basis for cooperation in meeting the specific needs of mountain communities. He therefore welcomed the outcome of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit and the adoption of the Bishkek Mountain Platform (A/C.2/57/7).

29. Cooperation between governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities and research institutions, regional and subregional organizations, the United Nations system and the private sector must be strengthened so that the momentum generated during the past ten years would not be lost. He therefore welcomed the establishment of the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions; however, its implementation modalities, membership criteria and monitoring mechanisms had yet to be clarified. He was interested in the proposal to establish an international network of developing mountain States and regions and urged the sponsors to provide further information on its future development, implementation and impact; he also hoped that the International Year of Mountains Focus Group would continue its valuable work.

30. The United Nations had a central role to play in promoting the sustainable development of mountainous regions at the international level through close cooperation between its agencies, bearing in mind their respective mandates and areas of competence. Lastly, he proposed that a sub-item on the sustainable development of mountains should be included in the agenda of the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

31. **Ms. Pià-Comella** (Andorra) welcomed the adoption of the Bishkek Mountain Platform. Andorra had established a National Committee for the International Year of Mountains, which had cooperated in a programme under which Bolivian firemen had received training and equipment from their Andorran and French counterparts; various programmes for the development of cultural ecotourism in mountainous regions, including an international conference on the topic organized by the Andorran Biodiversity Centre; and a day of hikes throughout the country. It had promoted the development of a collection of books on mountains for distribution to public libraries and the formation of a working group made up of teachers and assigned to organize a series of seminars and hikes to teach children about mountain ecosystems. Through the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment, it had also developed a set of economic policies which focused on livestock farming as a means of conserving biological diversity, maintaining the productivity and quality of pastures, lessening the risks of forest fires and avalanches and promoting winter tourism, which was Andorra's primary source of revenue.

32. **Mr. Daniel** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), speaking on behalf of the member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that were Members of the United Nations, said that the mountains of those States served as a direct life-support base for sustainable development for a large portion of their population. They were an essential element in the maintenance and even survival of their precious ecosystems, as well as serving as popular destinations for recreational tourism, areas of important cultural diversity and heritage, and repositories of rich biological diversity. It was mainly in the lower and

middle reaches of mountains that most of their agricultural commodities were grown, and upon which they relied heavily for exports to sustain their fragile economies. Many CARICOM member States did not possess sufficient low-lying land to support animal farming, and the mountain belts provided the additional land required. Sustainable economic development of their mountains was essential, but the major problem for small economies such as those of the CARICOM member States was the absence of capacity for such development. There was no shortage of plans and programmes, but there was a lack of capacity effectively to implement them. The CARICOM member States needed to implement national strategies for sustainable mountain development, enacting enabling policies, laws and mechanisms for the environmental goods and services tapped from their mountain regions. For the sake both of visitors and of future generations, it was essential to protect and sustain the ecological integrity and economic and social viability of the mountain regions of the CARICOM member States.

33. **Mr. Penjor** (Bhutan) said that, as a country which was entirely mountainous, Bhutan welcomed the international recognition given to the importance and vulnerability of mountainous regions. The issue of sustainable mountain development must continue to be an integral aspect of the global sustainable development agenda, and Bhutan hoped that the implementation aspects of the issue would also receive the attention they deserved. He reaffirmed Bhutan's support for the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions and for the Bishkek Mountain Platform. The issue of sustainable mountain development was a vital one for Bhutan, and his country had hosted the international conference entitled "Celebrating Mountain Women", organized by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development in October 2002. For the first time, mountain women had come together to discuss issues that concerned them. The Thimphu Declaration, adopted by the conference and presented at the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, focused on the core themes of natural resources and environment; entrepreneurship; legal, political and human rights; health and well-being; and cultural and indigenous knowledge.

34. Significant progress had been made in increasing global awareness of the issue of sustainable mountain development, but the challenges in terms of implementation were manifold and very daunting. It was imperative that efforts be intensified nationally, regionally and globally in order to ensure that the cumulative efforts of the International Year of Mountains, 2002, indeed served as the platform for launching effective action to implement sustainable mountain development.

35. **Mr. Gebert** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia and, in addition, Iceland, said that the inaccessibility of many mountain areas demanded a special approach to development activities of all kinds, whether they were strategies for poverty eradication or infrastructure projects in general. In that context, the European Union particularly welcomed the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, and hoped that the momentum which had been generated around the issue would be further exploited, and that efforts to promote sustainable development in mountain regions would continue beyond the International Year.

36. **Ms. Tovšak** (Slovenia) said that her country had a substantial surface area that was mountainous, and therefore a specific interest in sustainable development in mountain regions. Slovenia had been one of the first countries to adopt and implement a national programme on the International Year of Mountains. At the regional level, it had been actively involved in the process of the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Alpine Convention), and together with other Alpine countries had negotiated protocols which would create a platform for strategies and implementation measures in spatial planning, nature conservation, energy, soil conservation, mountain farming, tourism, water management and transport. The regional initiative known as the "Alpine Process" made a valuable contribution to sustainability in the region, and provided a framework for a wide range of networking and strengthening of regional cooperation. Slovenia supported the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, the Bishkek Mountain Platform and the principles of the Berchtesgaden Declaration.

Organization of work

37. **Ms. Black** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, requested an extension of the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions under agenda item 93 until 6 p.m. the same day.

38. **Mr. Traub** (United States of America) said that his delegation was always pleased to cooperate with colleagues when progress was possible, and did not wish to object to the request that had just been made. However, his delegation was very seriously concerned about the slow progress of work in the Second Committee. The Committee had a deadline of 6 December for completing its work, and the Chairman was doing what he could to expedite matters. He implored his colleagues to do likewise. Future extensions of deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions would be more difficult to agree to.

39. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had a heavy workload, and that the Group of 77 and China, representing a very large number of diverse countries, was not able to hold meetings after 6 p m., which was a restriction that had disturbed the Committee's programme of work. The target date for the Committee to complete its work was 6 December, and he hoped that delegations, and especially coordinators of the Groups, would take that into account and endeavour to submit their draft resolutions on time. From now on, it would become difficult to extend deadlines.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.